

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gregory C. Ranieri on 2-6-07.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
 - Claim 1, line 9, "and" had been deleted.
 - Claim 1, line 14, after the word "mediums", inserting --- ; and egress packet write drop logic, which, in response to an overflow condition of said first FIFO storage structure, while operating under first protocol, writes an EOP at an offset from a SOP location of an egress packet to be dropped, to effectuate a tail flush of said first FIFO storage structure---

–Claim 25, line 14, after the word “mediums”, inserting --- ; and ingress packet write drop logic, which, in response to an overflow condition of said third FIFO storage structure, while operating under a first protocol, writes an EOP at an offset from a SOP location of an ingress packet to be dropped, to effectuate a tail flush of said first FIFO storage structure---

–Claim 37, line 9, after the word “mediums”, inserting --- ; and egress packet write drop logic, which, in response to an overflow condition of said first FIFO storage structure, while operating under a first protocol, write an EOP at an offset from a SOP location of an egress packet to be dropped, to effectuate a tail flush of said first FIFO storage structure---

–Claims 2, 26, 60–89 had been canceled.

4. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1, 3–9, the prior art fails to teach a networking apparatus comprising “egress packet write drop logic, which, in response to an overflow condition of said first FIFO storage structure, while operating under first protocol, writes an EOP at an offset from a SOP location of an egress

packet to be dropped, to effectuate a tail flush of said first FIFO storage structure,” which is considered in combination with other limitations, as specified as, in the independent claim 1.

–Claims 25-27-33, the prior art fails to teach a networking apparatus comprising “ingress packet write drop logic, which, in response to an overflow condition of said third FIFO storage structure, while operating under a first protocol, writes an EOP at an offset from a SOP location of an ingress packet to be dropped, to effectuate a tail flush of said first FIFO storage structure,” which is considered in combination with other limitations, as specified as, in the independent claim 25.

–Claims 37-42, the prior art fails to teach a networking apparatus comprising “egress packet write drop logic, which, in response to an overflow condition of said first FIFO storage structure, while operating under a first protocol, write an EOP at an offset from a SOP location of an egress packet to be dropped, to effectuate a tail flush of said first FIFO storage structure,” which is considered in combination with other limitations, as specified as, in the independent claim 37.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHUONGCHAU BA NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-3148. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on 571-272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about

the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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